

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0883

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IZ
SUBJECT: EFFORTS AGAINST CORRUPTION OF BAATH PARTY MEMBERS

1. BY DECREES PUBLISHED APRIL 17, THE REVOLUTIONARY
COMMAND COUNCIL SET OUT HARSH NEW PENALTIES FOR BAATH
PARTY MEMBERS GUILTY OF MISCONDUCT. THE BASIC THRUST OF
THE DECREE IS THAT PARTY MEMBERS WILL BE DISCIPLINED WITHIN
THE PARTY FOR OFFENSES COMMITTED IN GOVERNMENT JOBS OR
OTHER EMPLOYMENT. THE DECREE SPECIFIED A NUMBER OF
GROUNDS FOR SPECIAL PUNISHMENT:

A. OBSTRUCTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT
PROGRAMS;
B. JEOPARDIZING THE REPUTATION OF THE PARTY
IN THE CIVIL SERVICE;
C. EXPLOITING PARTY TIES FOR SELF-INTEREST OR NEPOTISM;
D. INCOMPETENCE ON THE JOB;
E. DISRUPTING PRODUCTION;
F. NON-DEMOCRATIC BUREAUCRATIC TENDENCIES;
G. PURSUIT OF DEVIOUS METHODS TO RISE THROUGH
THE RANKS.

2. PUBLICATION OF DECREE WAS FOLLOWED BY EXTENSIVE
XCAMPAIGN IN PARTY PRESS WHICH EMPHASIZED THE NEED
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FOR CLOSE SUPERVISION OF PARTY MEMBERS AND THE VITAL
NECESSITY THAT BAATHIS SET A GOOD EXAMPLE TO THE
REST OF SOCIETY.

3. RESOLUTION ALSO COVERED MISBEHAVIOR BY PARTY
MEMBERS ENGAGED IN UNIVERSITY STUDIES. IN A
POSSIBLY RELATED MOVE, 38 BAGHDAD UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS

WERE DISMISSED BY AN RCC RESOLUTION OF MARCH 28.

4. COMMENT: IT IS A COMMONLY HELD BELIEF THAT PARTY MEMBERSHIP IN IRAQ IS THE KEY TO PREFERENTIAL ADVANCEMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH IN THIS COUNTRY INCLUDES MOST OF THE ECONOMIC SECTOR AND THE WHOLE EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT. IT IS EVEN BELIEVED THAT UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS ARE AFRAID TO GIVE FAILING MARKS TO BAATH PARTY MEMBERS ENROLLED IN THEIR CLASSES. FROM TIME TO TIME THE REGIME HAS MADE EFFORTS TO COUNTER ACCUSATIONS OF PARTY FAVORITISM, INCLUDING THE RECENT DISBARMENT OF A NUMBER OF LAWYERS THOUGHT TO BE USING PARTY TIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THEIR CLIENTS. IT WILL, HOWEVER, BE DIFFICULT FOR REGIME TO IMPROVE ITS IMAGE AS LONG AS THE TOP LEADERSHIP INCLUDES A GROUP OF MEN WHO ARE CLOSELY RELATED BY BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND BUSINESS TIES.
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